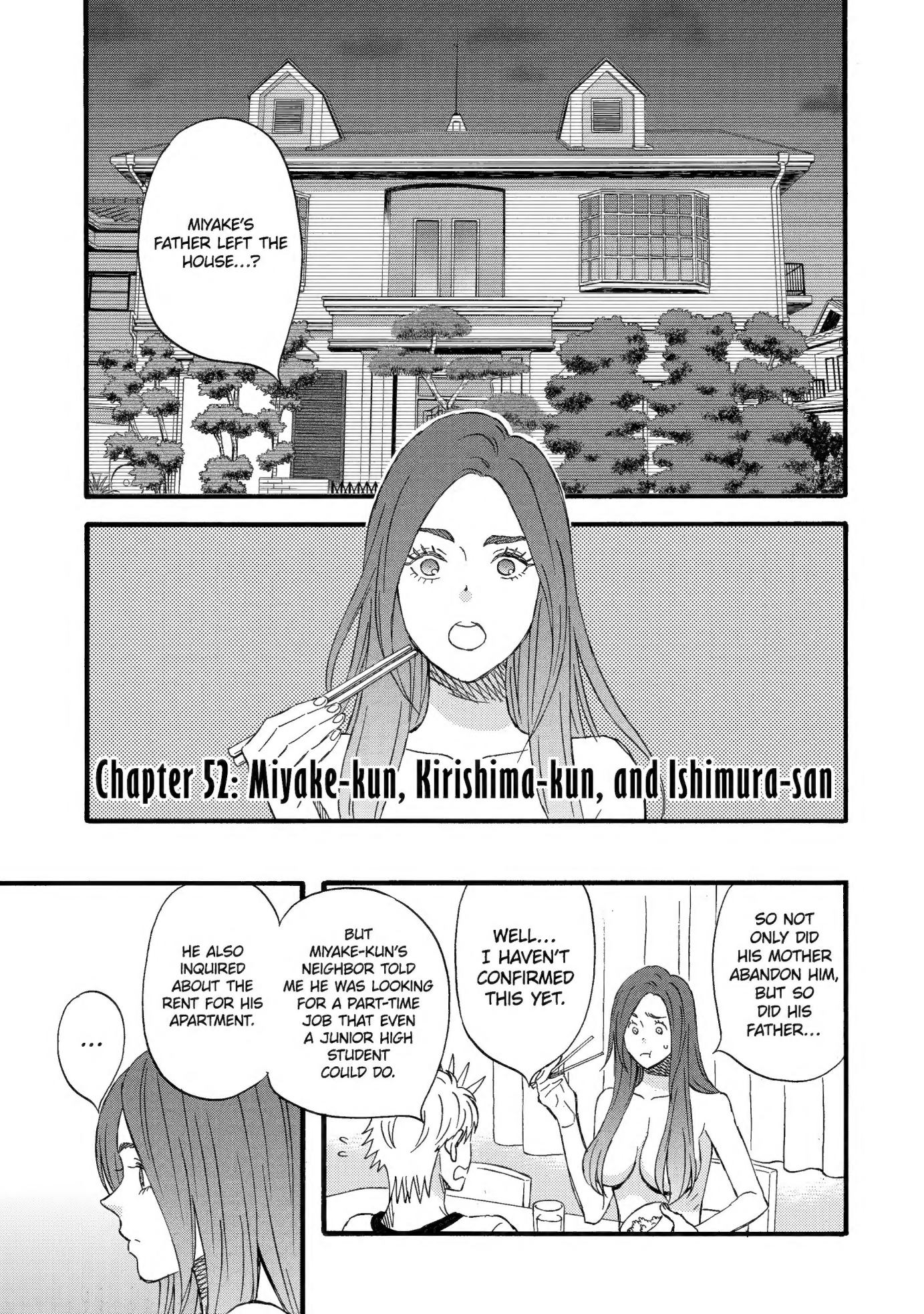
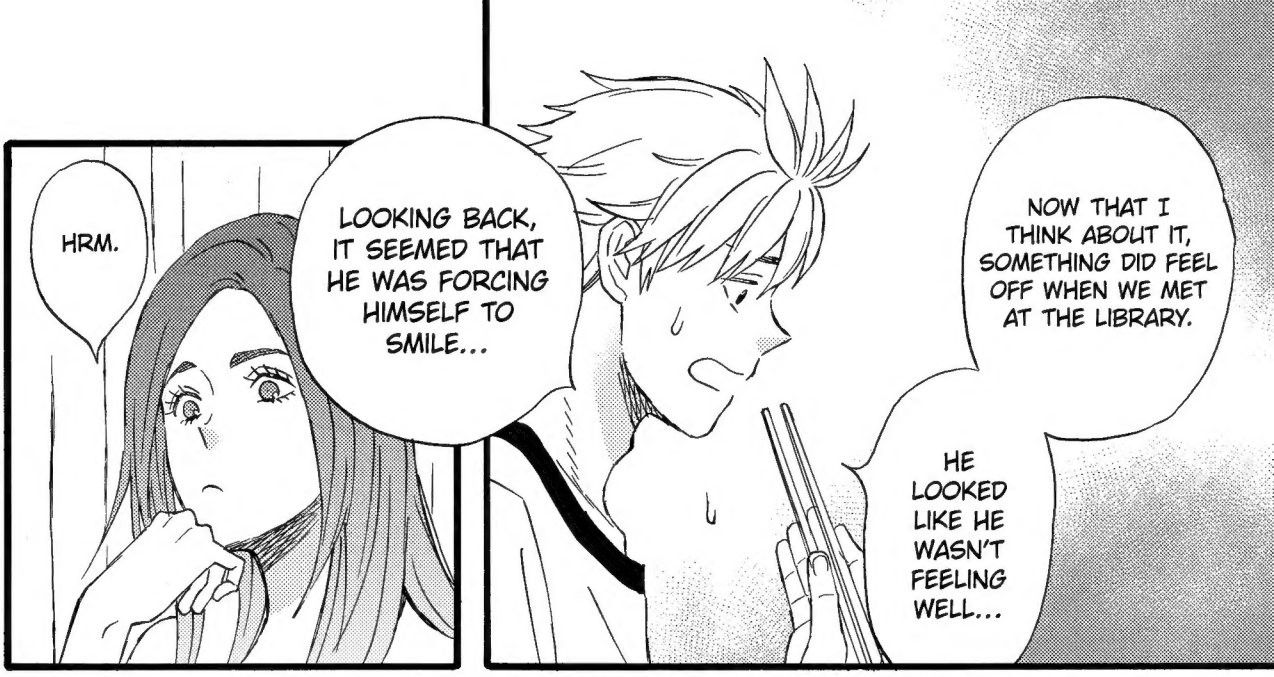
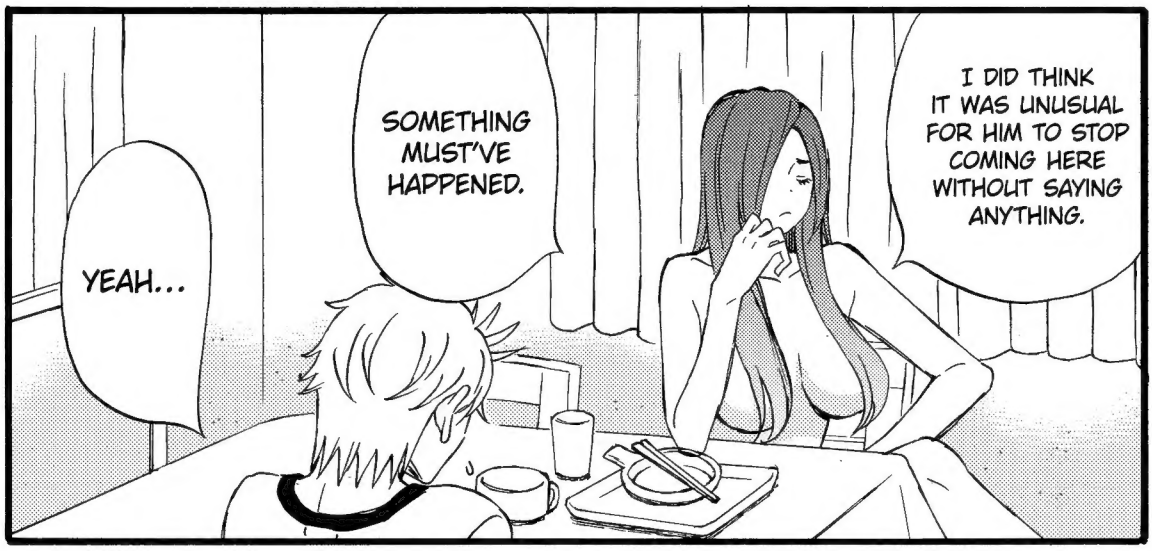

MIYAKE'S FATHER LEFT THE HOUSE...?
Chapter 52: Miyake-kun, Kirishima-kun, and Ishimura-san
SO NOT ONLY DID HIS MOTHER ABANDON HIM, BUT SO DID HIS FATHER...
WELL... I HAVEN'T CONFIRMED THIS YET.
BUT MIYAKE-KUN'S NEIGHBOR TOLD ME HE WAS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME JOB THAT EVEN A JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT COULD DO.
HE ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT THE RENT FOR HIS APARTMENT.
...

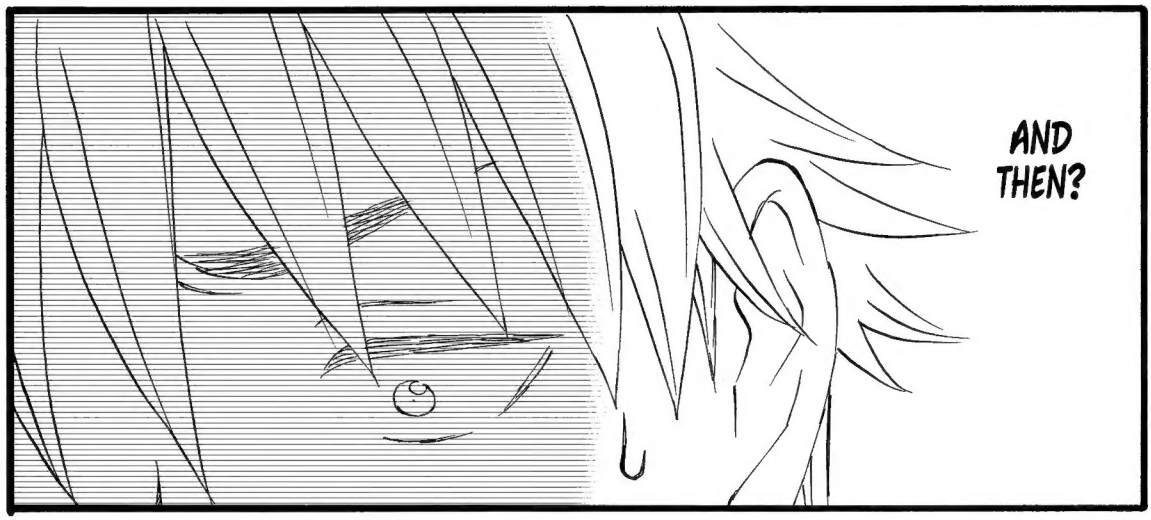

HRM.
LOOKING BACK, IT SEEMED THAT HE WAS FORCING HIMSELF TO SMILE...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, SOMETHING DID FEEL OFF WHEN WE MET AT THE LIBRARY.
HE LOOKED LIKE HE WASN'T FEELING WELL...

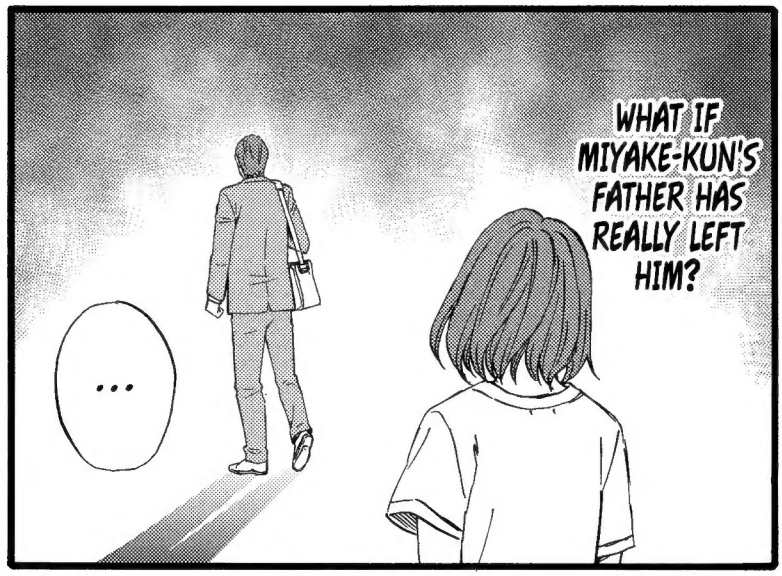

YEAH...
SOMETHING MUST'VE HAPPENED.
I DID THINK IT WAS UNUSUAL FOR HIM TO STOP COMING HERE WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING.

...
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU PLAN TO DO ABOUT THIS, KIRISHIMA-KUN.

...SO?
HM?

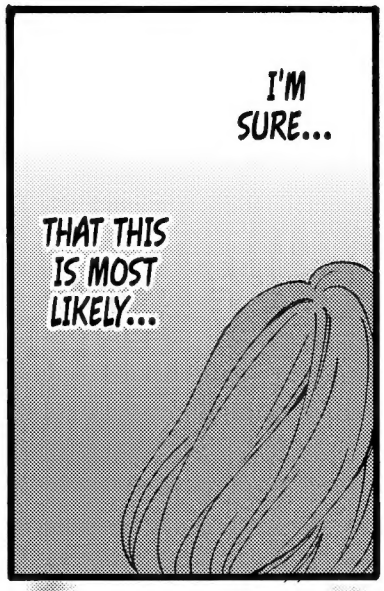
FIRST, I WANT TO CONFIRM IF THE RUMORS ARE TRUE. AND THEN...
WHAT I PLAN TO DO...?


AND THEN?

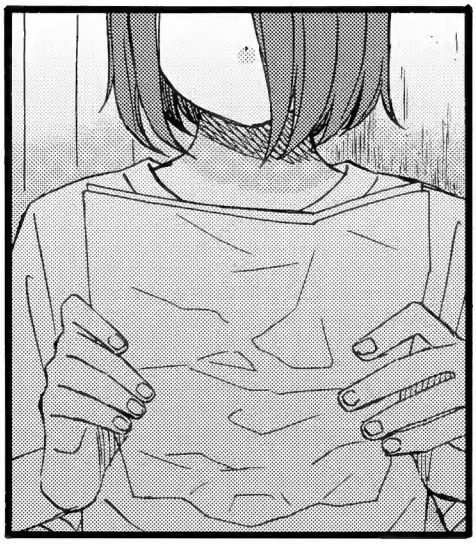

...
WHAT IF MIYAKE-KUN'S FATHER HAS REALLY LEFT HIM?

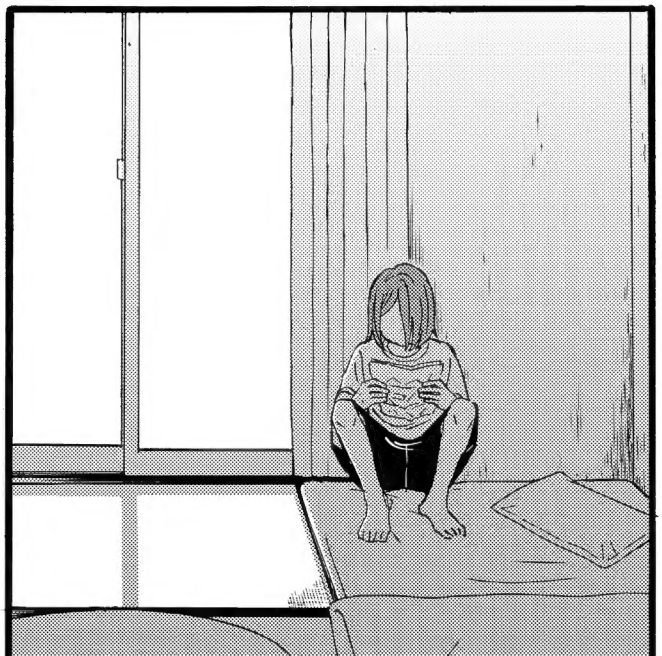
WHAT IF...

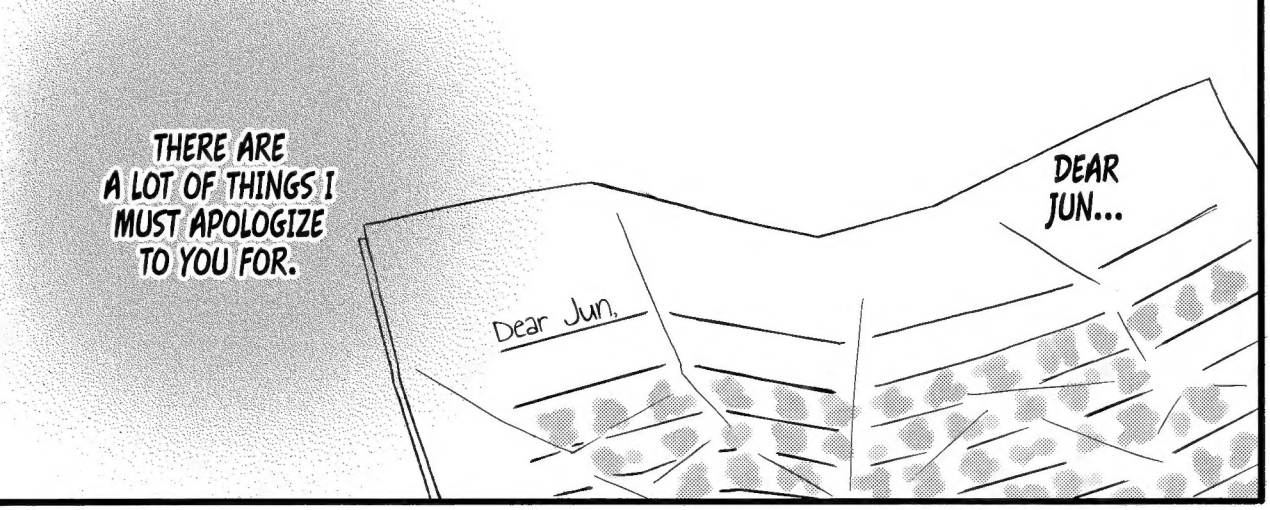
THAT STRANGERS ARE ALLOWED TO STEP INTO.
BEYOND THE TERRITORY...


I'M SURE...
THAT THIS IS MOST LIKELY...

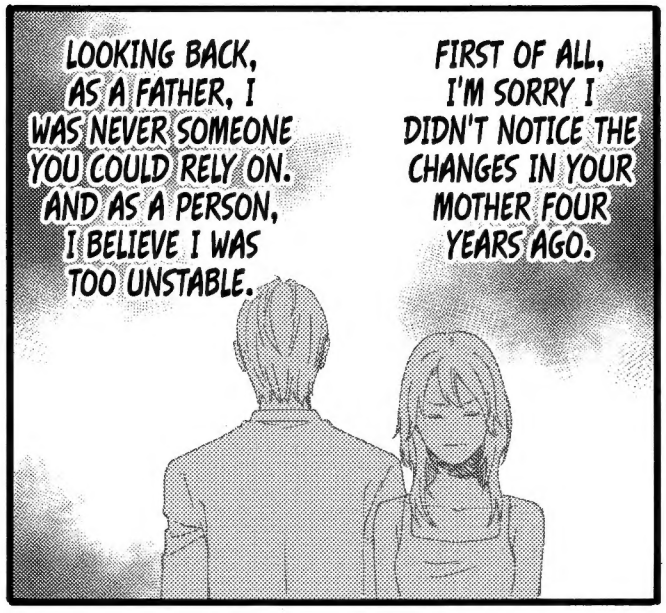
I WANT TO BELIEVE THAT HE WASN'T REALLY ABANDONED, BUT...

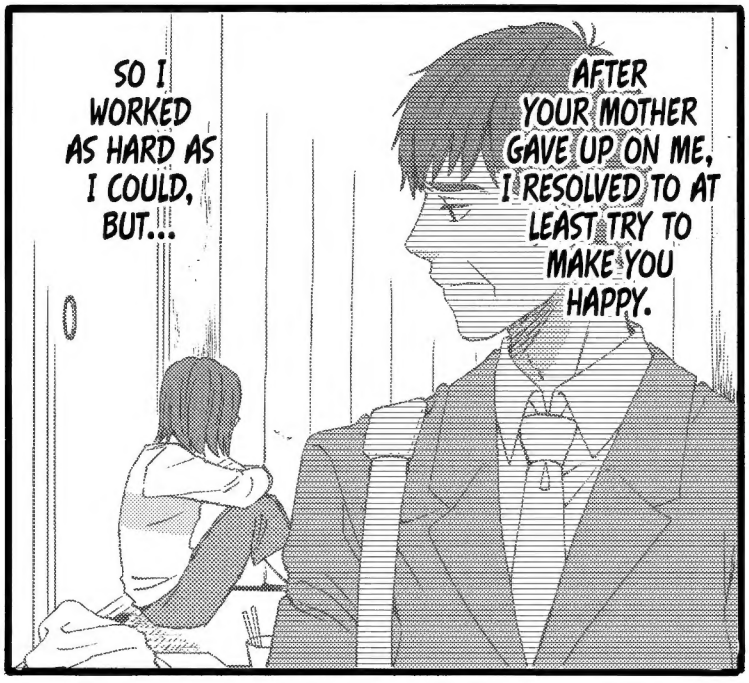




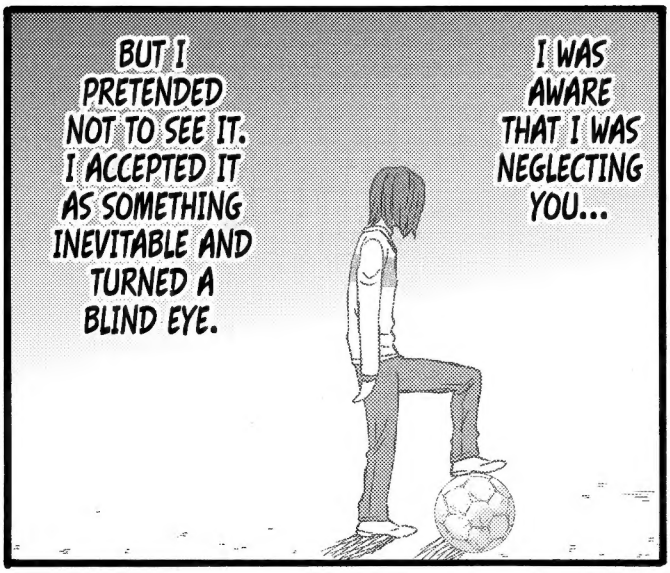

THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS I MUST APOLOGIZE TO YOU FOR.
DEAR JUN...
Dear Jun,

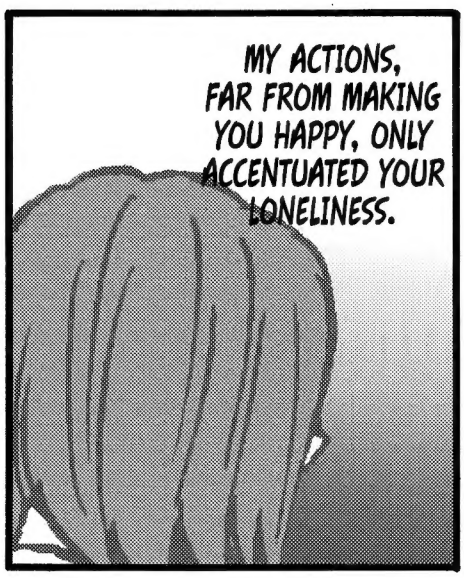
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE I'M LIKE THIS THAT YOUR MOTHER LEFT US.
I SHOULD'VE REALIZED SOONER THAT I DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE ANYONE HAPPY.

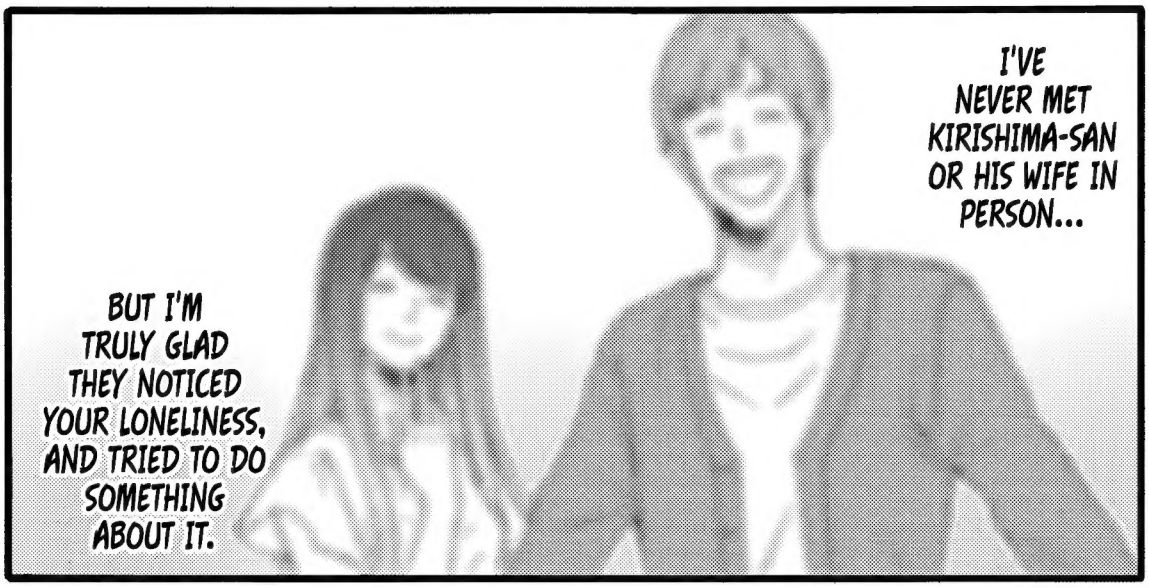

LOOKING BACK, AS A FATHER, I WAS NEVER SOMEONE YOU COULD RELY ON. AND AS A PERSON, I BELIEVE I WAS TOO UNSTABLE.
FIRST OF ALL, I'M SORRY I DIDN'T NOTICE THE CHANGES IN YOUR MOTHER FOUR YEARS AGO.

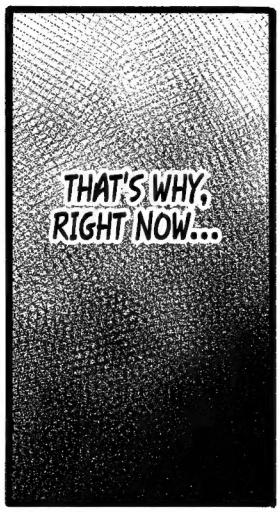

SO I WORKED AS HARD AS I COULD, BUT...
AFTER YOUR MOTHER GAVE UP ON ME, I RESOLVED TO AT LEAST TRY TO MAKE YOU HAPPY.

I SHOULD'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF STARTING A FAMILY. I'M REALLY SORRY.


I WAS AWARE THAT I WAS NEGLECTING YOU...
BUT I PRETENDED NOT TO SEE IT. I ACCEPTED IT AS SOMETHING INEVITABLE AND TURNED A BLIND EYE.

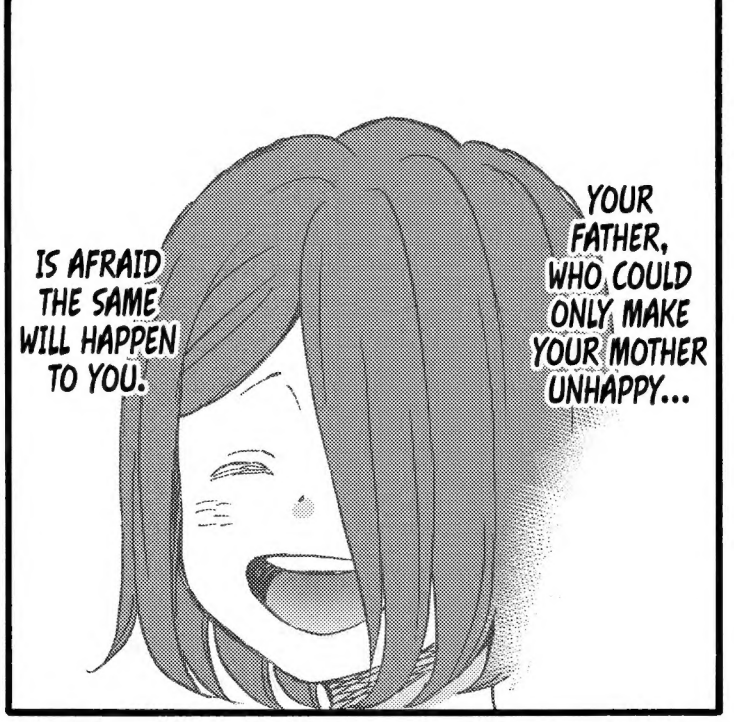

MY ACTIONS, FAR FROM MAKING YOU HAPPY, ONLY ACCENTUATED YOUR LONELINESS.

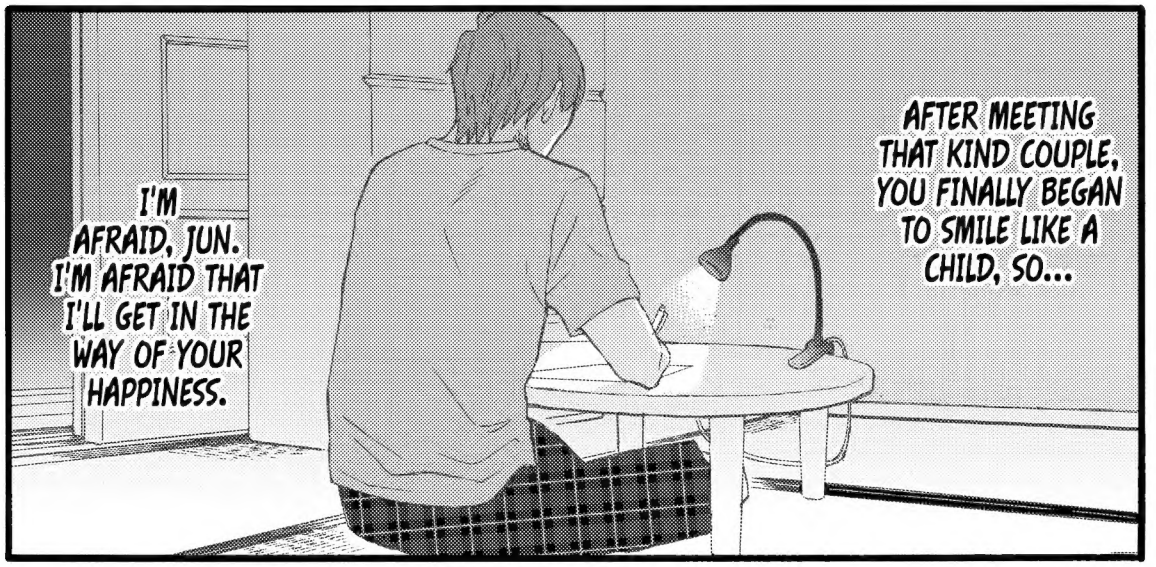

I'VE NEVER MET KIRISHIMA-SAN OR HIS WIFE IN PERSON...
BUT I'M TRULY GLAD THEY NOTICED YOUR LONELINESS, AND TRIED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.


THAT'S WHY, RIGHT NOW...

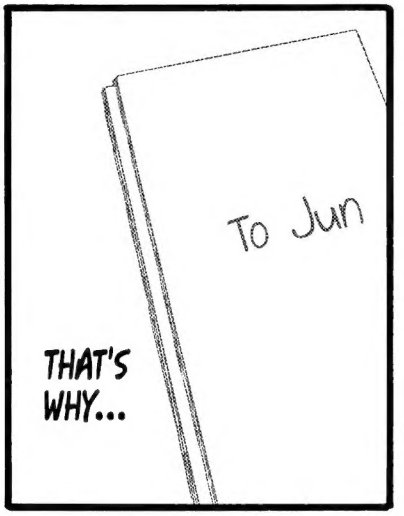
I WANT YOU TO BE RAISED IN A FAMILY LIKE THAT.
TEACHING YOU ABOUT HOUSEWORK, HELPING WITH YOUR STUDIES, OFFERING YOU THE CHANCE TO TRAVEL... THOSE WERE ALL THINGS THAT I COULDN'T GIVE YOU.

I CAN ONLY MAKE THE PEOPLE AROUND ME MISERABLE.

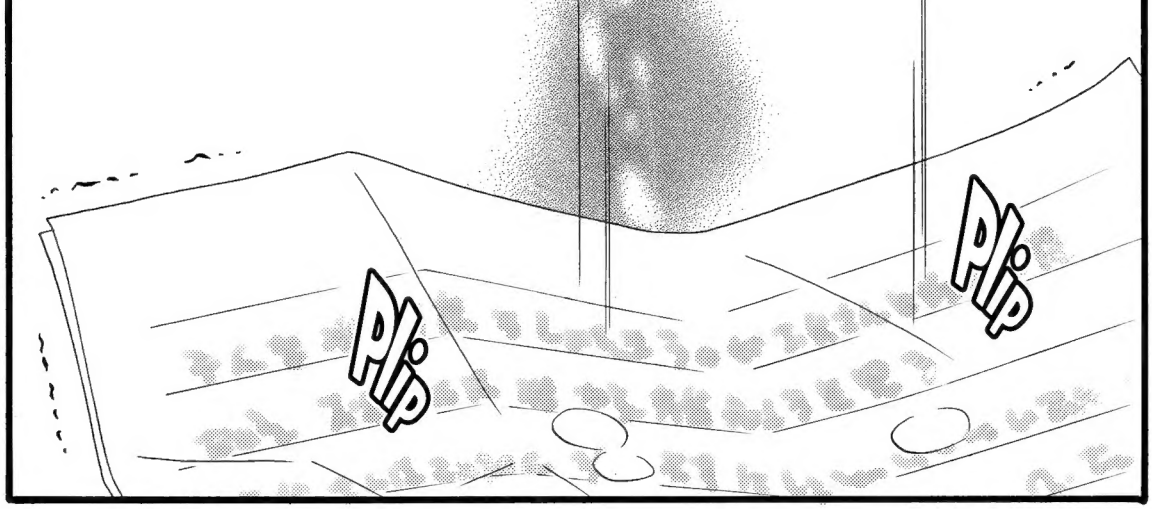

YOUR FATHER, WHO COULD ONLY MAKE YOUR MOTHER UNHAPPY...
IS AFRAID THE SAME WILL HAPPEN TO YOU.

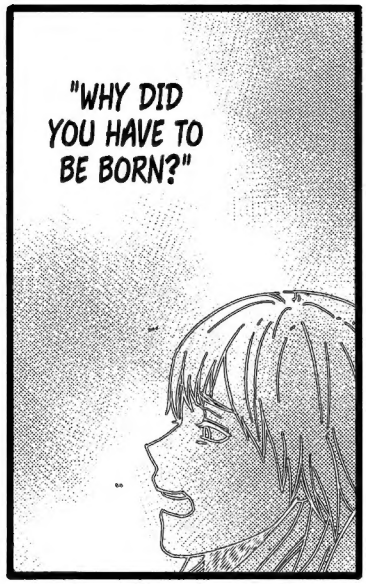

AFTER MEETING THAT KIND COUPLE, YOU FINALLY BEGAN TO SMILE LIKE A CHILD, SO...
I'M AFRAID, JUN. I'M AFRAID THAT I'LL GET IN THE WAY OF YOUR HAPPINESS.

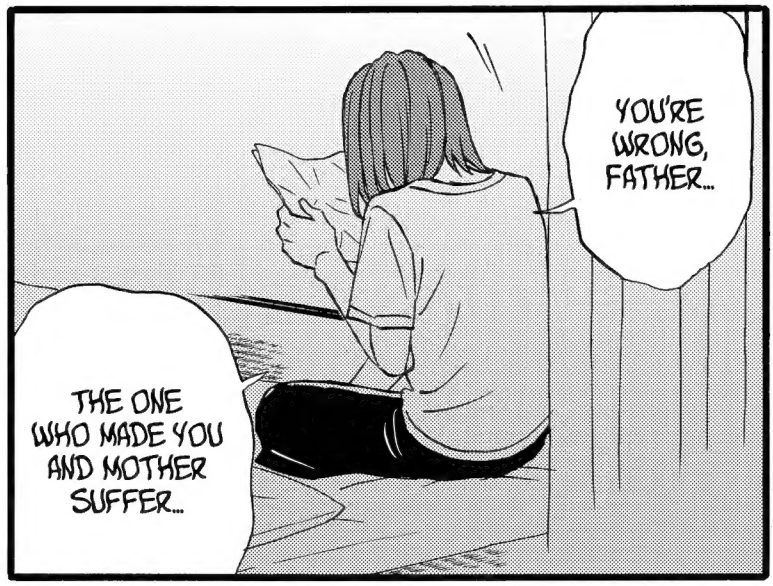
I HAVE DECIDED TO LEAVE YOU.

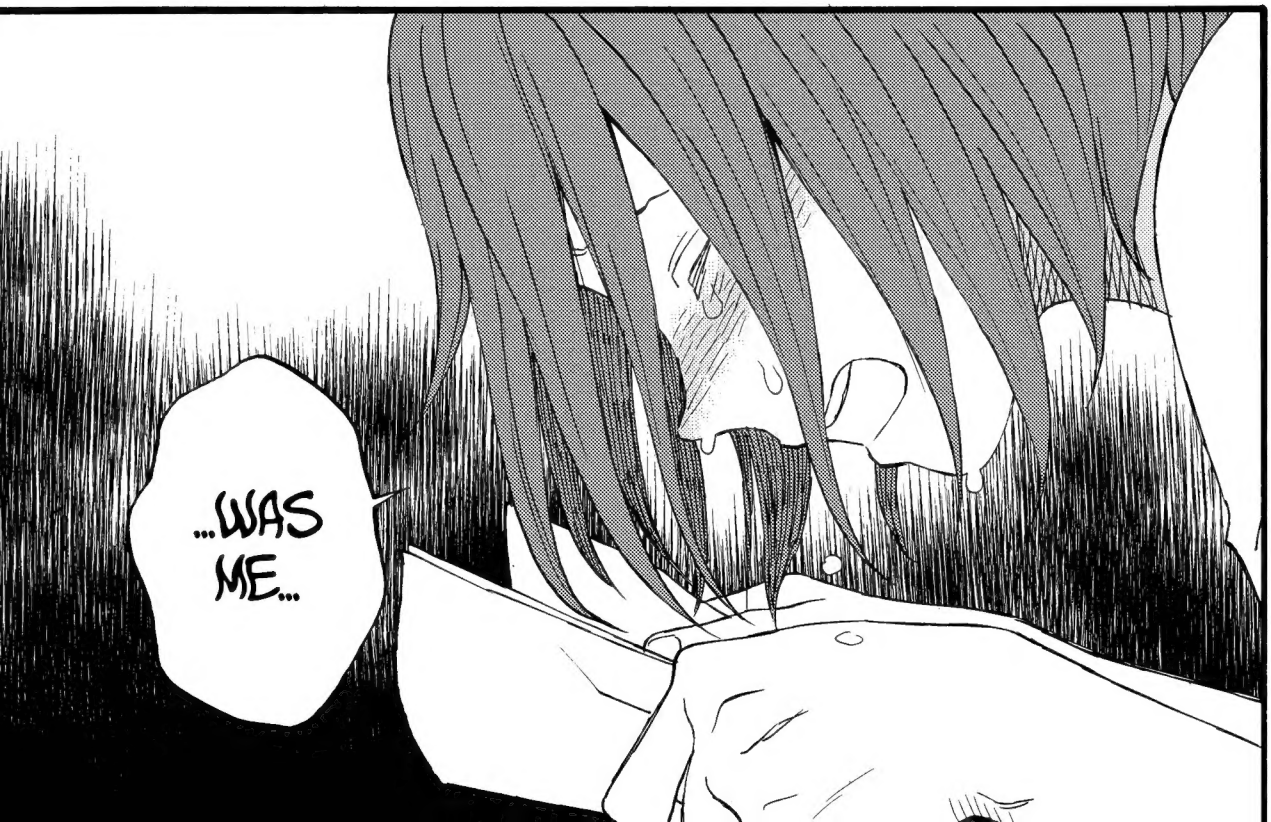

To Jun
THAT'S WHY...

BUT I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE UNHAPPY ANYMORE.
I'M SORRY IT HAPPENED SO SUDDENLY.


PIP
PIP

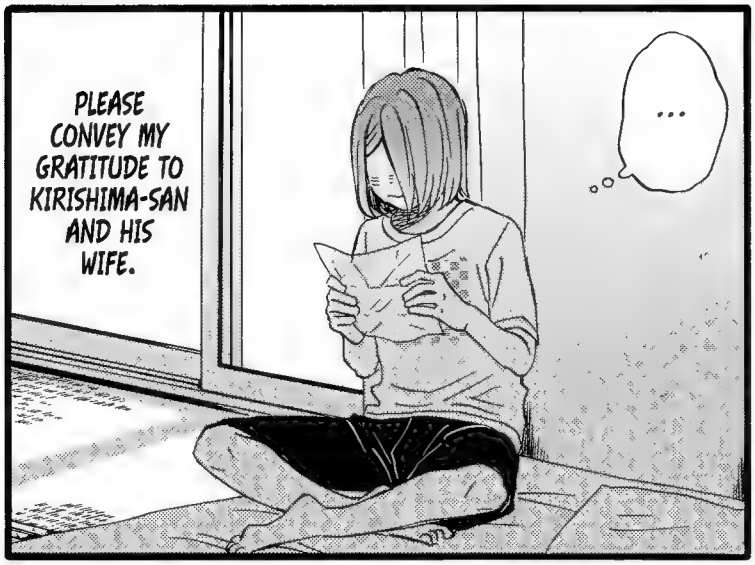

"WHY DID YOU HAVE TO BE BORN?"

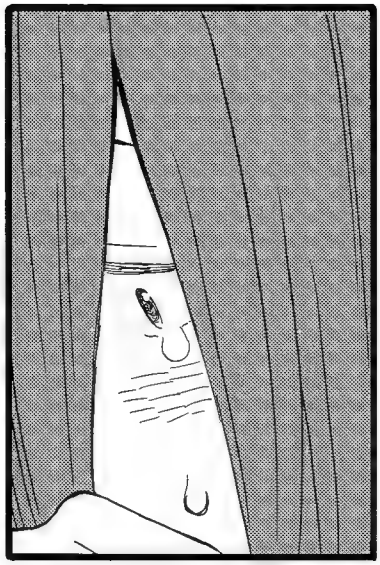

YOU'RE WRONG, FATHER...
THE ONE WHO MADE YOU AND MOTHER SUFFER...

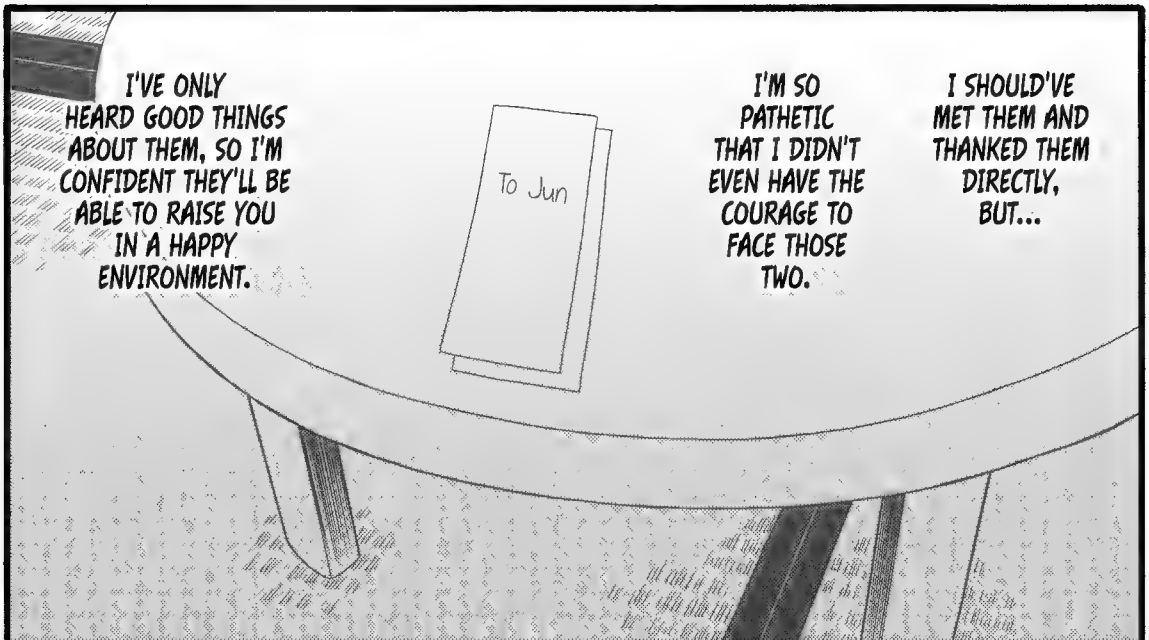

...WAS ME...

FATHER... I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE...
I'M SORRY...

I MADE YOU FEEL THIS WAY...
KIRISHIMA-SAN AND ISHIMURA-SAN SHOWERED ME WITH SO MUCH LOVE THAT I GOT CARRIED AWAY...


PLEASE CONVEY MY GRATITUDE TO KIRISHIMA-SAN AND HIS WIFE.
...

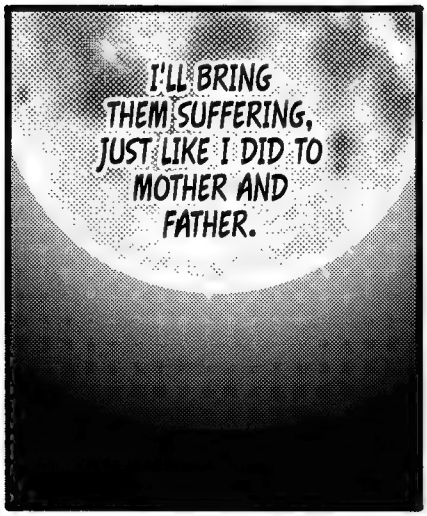


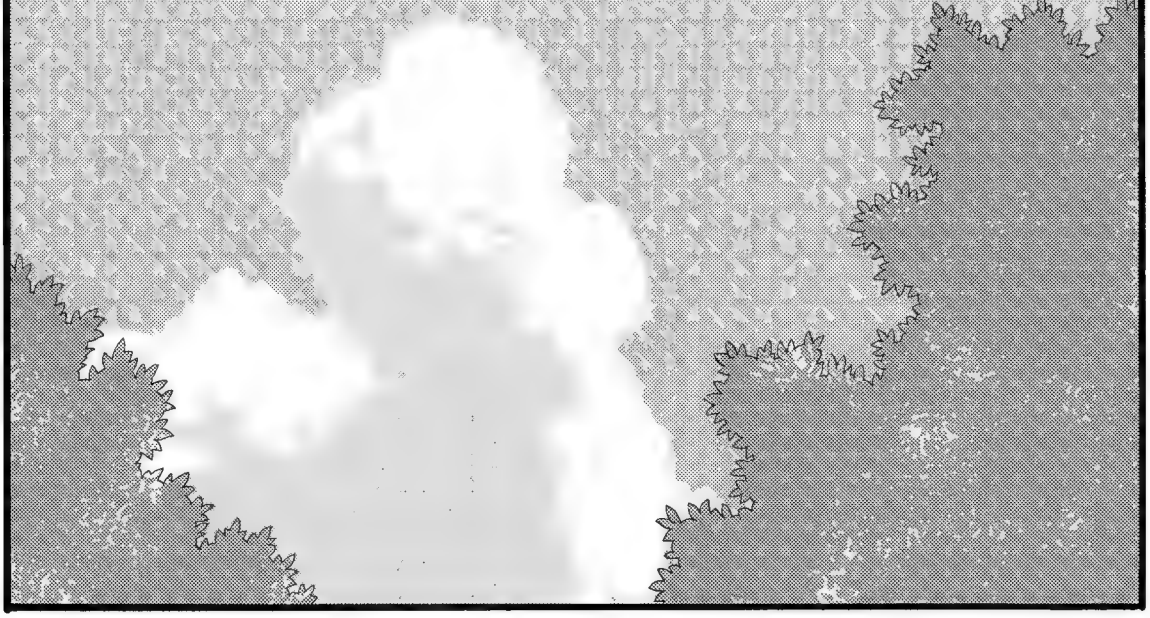

I'VE ONLY HEARD GOOD THINGS ABOUT THEM, SO I'M CONFIDENT THEY'LL BE ABLE TO RAISE YOU IN A HAPPY ENVIRONMENT.
To Jun
I'M SO PATHETIC THAT I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE THE COURAGE TO FACE THOSE TWO.
I SHOULD'VE MET THEM AND THANKED THEM DIRECTLY, BUT...

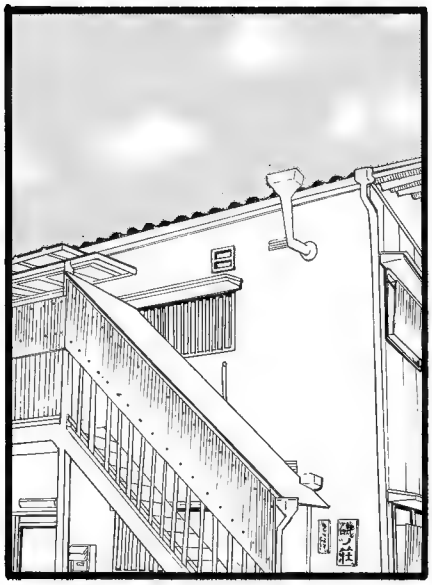
I...

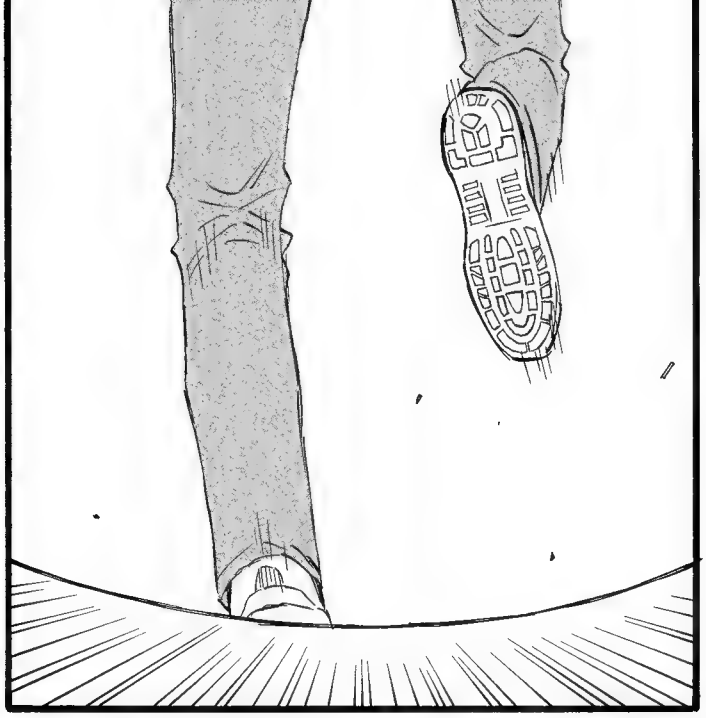
I ALWAYS MAKE THOSE AROUND ME UNHAPPY.

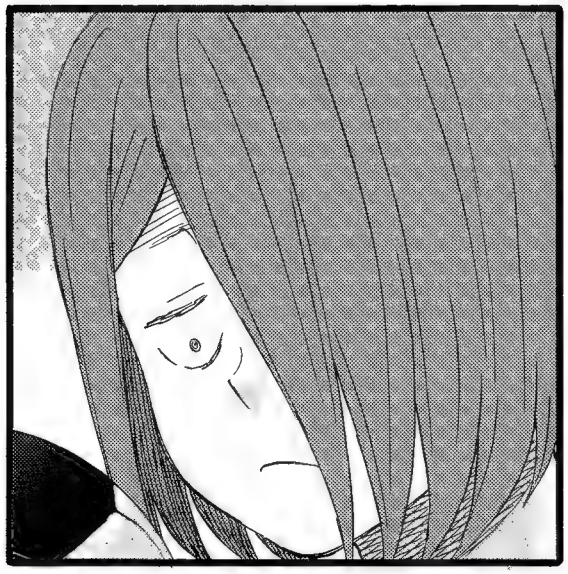
I'M SURE THE SAME THING WILL HAPPEN AGAIN.

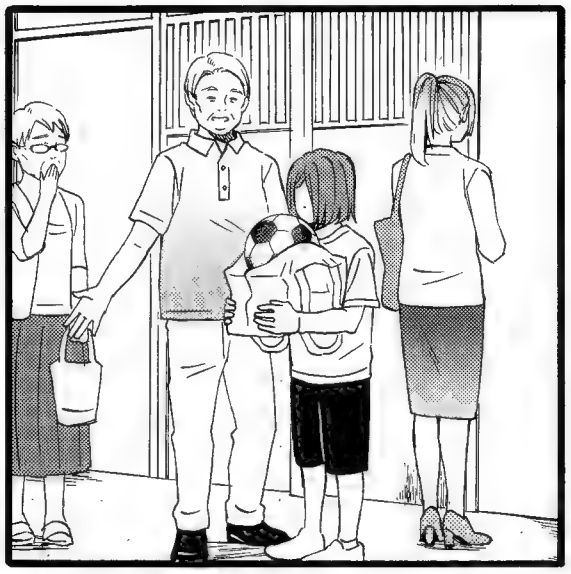


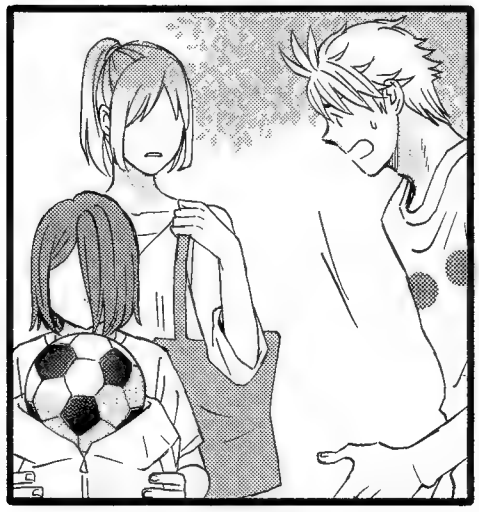


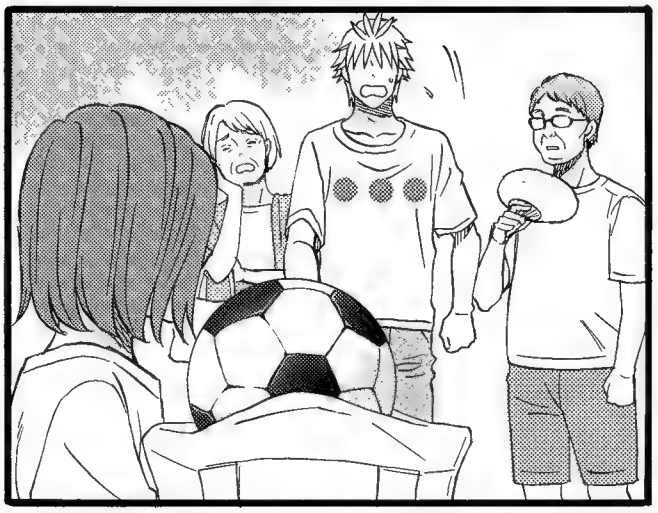

磯ノ荘

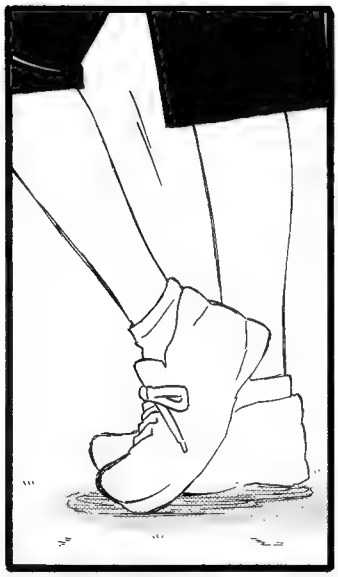


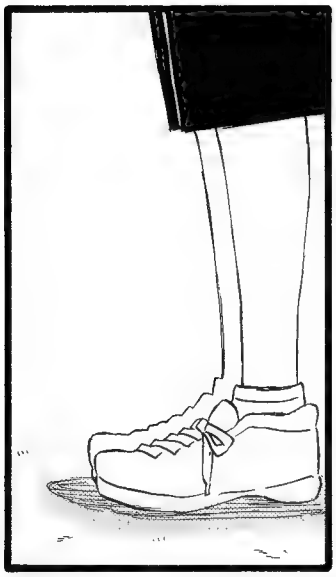












I SEE. SO HIS FATHER REALLY LEFT HIM...

I FEEL BAD FOR HIM. HE WAS ABANDONED BY THEM BOTH...

WHATEVER HIS PARENTS' CIRCUM-STANCES...

I SEE...

IT SEEMS THAT MIYAKE-KUN HAS NO OTHER RELATIVES...

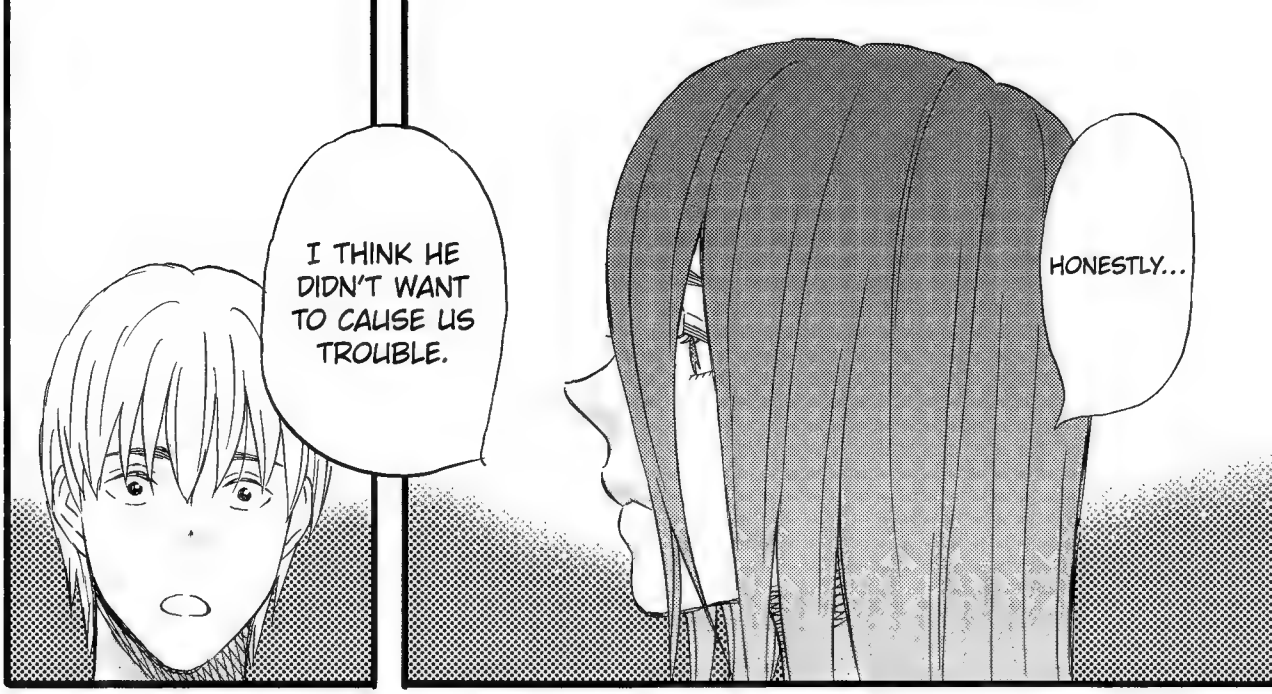
SO HE'LL BE PLACED IN A FOSTER HOME.

...

TO HIM, WE WERE STILL COMPLETE STRANGERS.

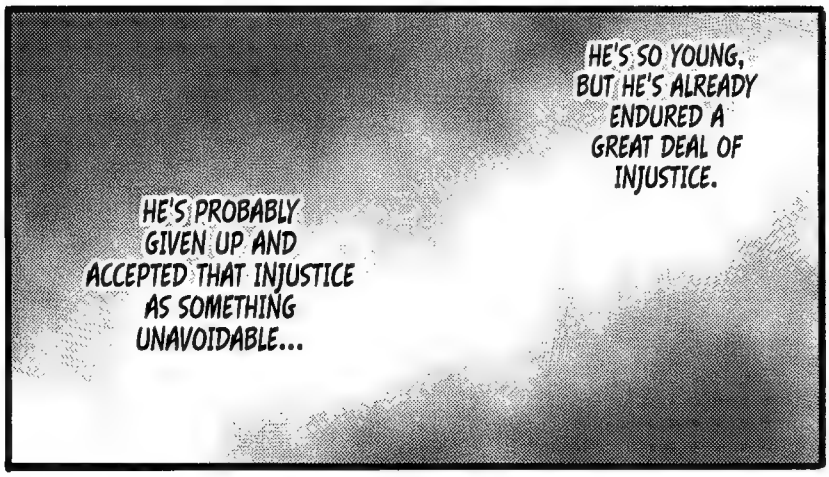
IN THE END, HE REALLY IS UNABLE TO TRUST ADULTS.

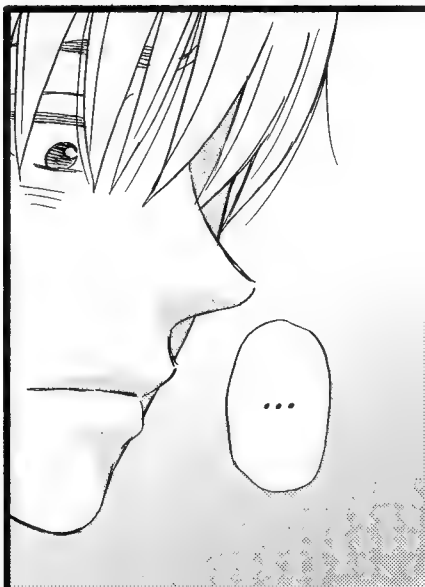
IT ALSO PAINS ME THAT HE DIDN'T TALK TO US ABOUT ANY OF THIS...


I THINK HE DIDN'T WANT TO CAUSE US TROUBLE.
HONESTLY...

MIYAKE-KUN...
THE MIYAKE I KNOW WAS A KIND, CONSIDERATE PERSON.

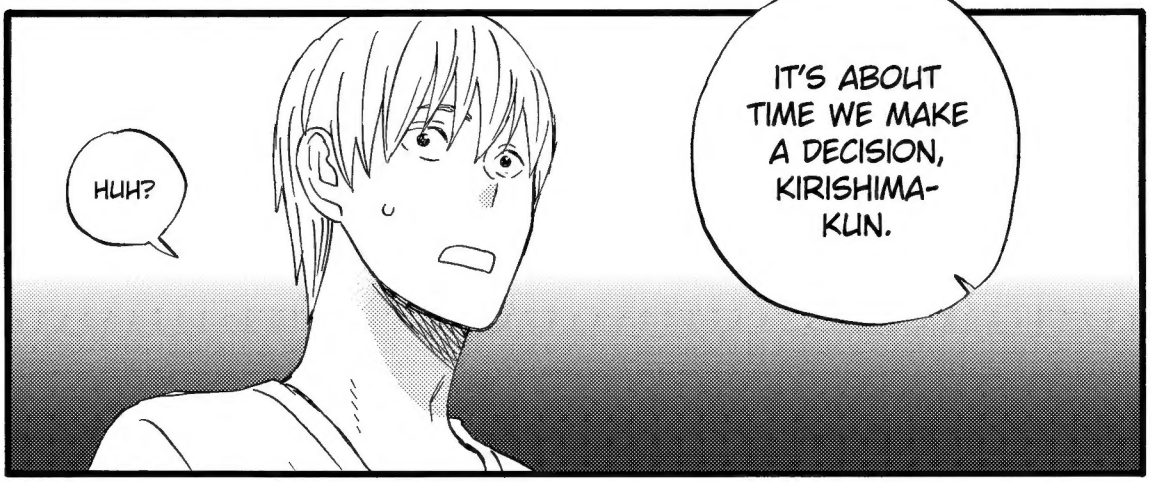
WE'VE ONLY SPENT A SHORT TIME TOGETHER, BUT...
THAT'S WHY HE WAS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME JOB AND WANTED TO KNOW HOW MUCH THE RENT FOR HIS APARTMENT WAS.

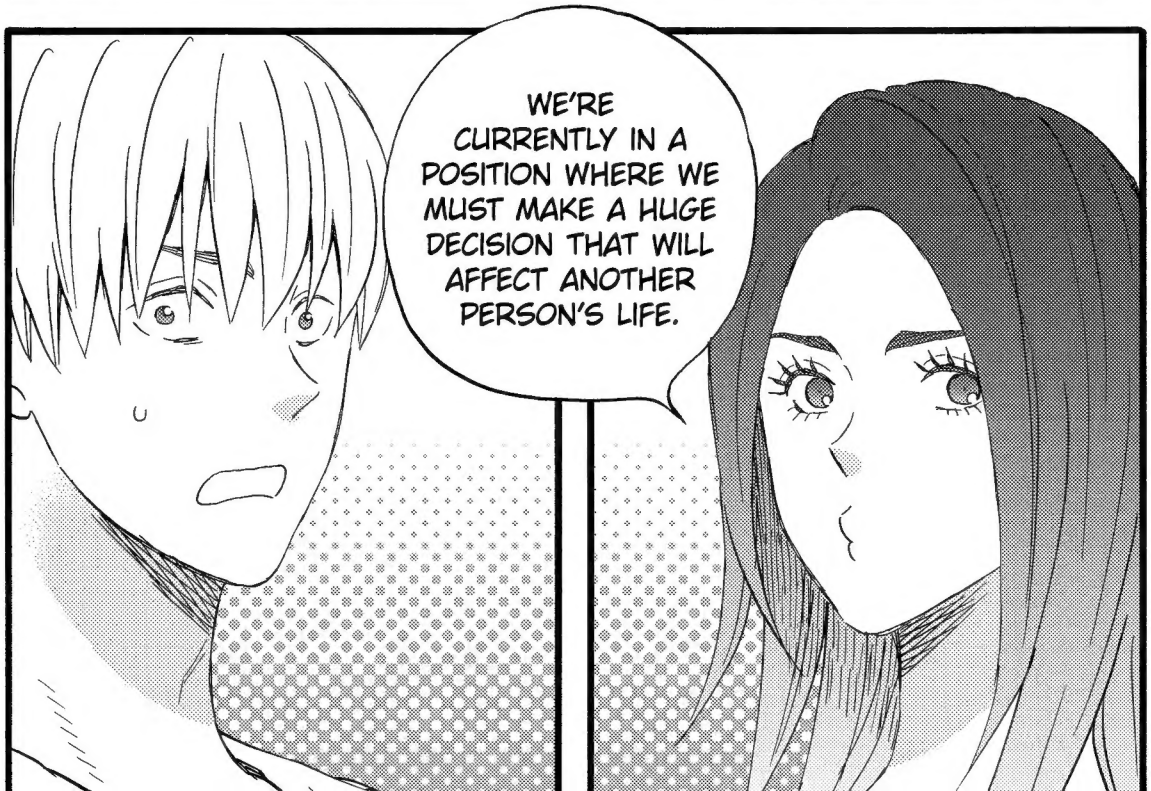

HE'S SO YOUNG, BUT HE'S ALREADY ENDURED A GREAT DEAL OF INJUSTICE.
HE'S PROBABLY GIVEN UP AND ACCEPTED THAT INJUSTICE AS SOMETHING UNAVOIDABLE...


...

...WELL, THEN.
Poff

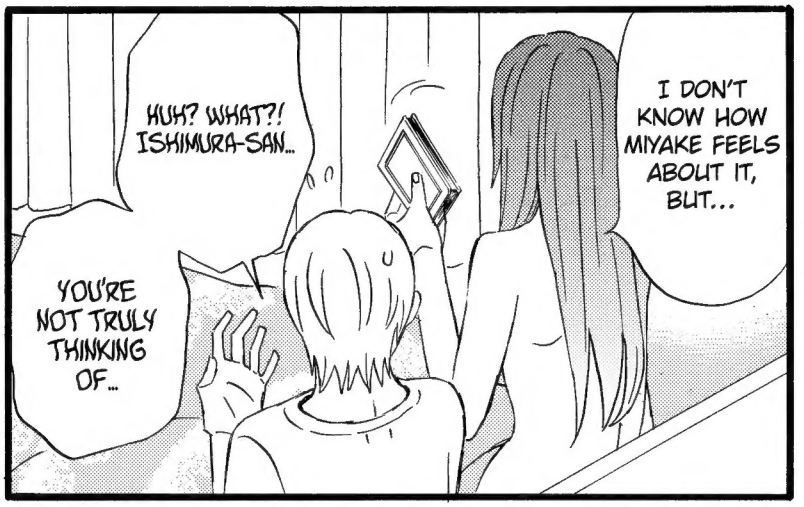
I FEEL SO HELPLESS. I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT ON MY OWN...
IT'S TOO MUCH FOR A CHILD TO BEAR...


HUH?
IT'S ABOUT TIME WE MAKE A DECISION, KIRISHIMA-KUN.


WE'RE CURRENTLY IN A POSITION WHERE WE MUST MAKE A HUGE DECISION THAT WILL AFFECT ANOTHER PERSON'S LIFE.

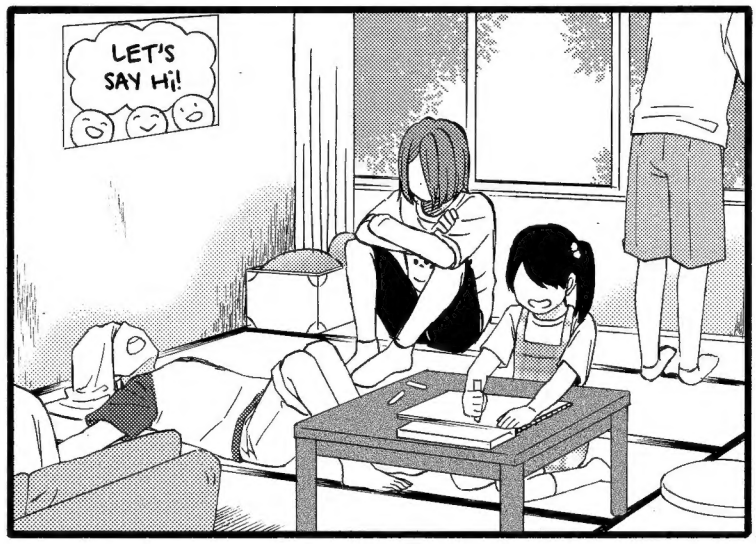
AS YOUR WIFE, I'VE BEEN EQUALLY PREPARED FOR THIS.
YOU COMMITTED TO HELPING MIYAKE, SO...
...WHAT? ISHIMURA-SAN?!

...DOING SOMETHING CRAZY, ARE YOU?
NOT REALLY?

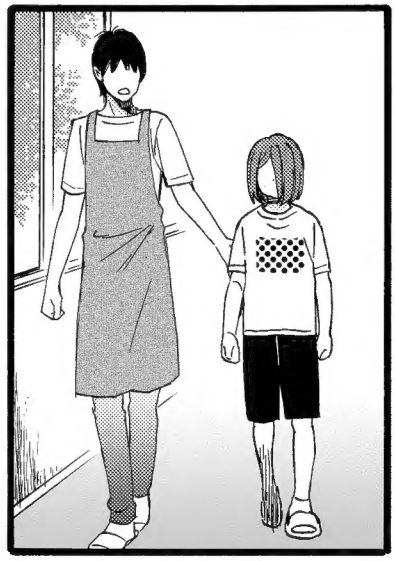

HUH? WHAT?! ISHIMURA-SAN...
YOU'RE NOT TRULY THINKING OF...
I DON'T KNOW HOW MIYAKE FEELS ABOUT IT, BUT...

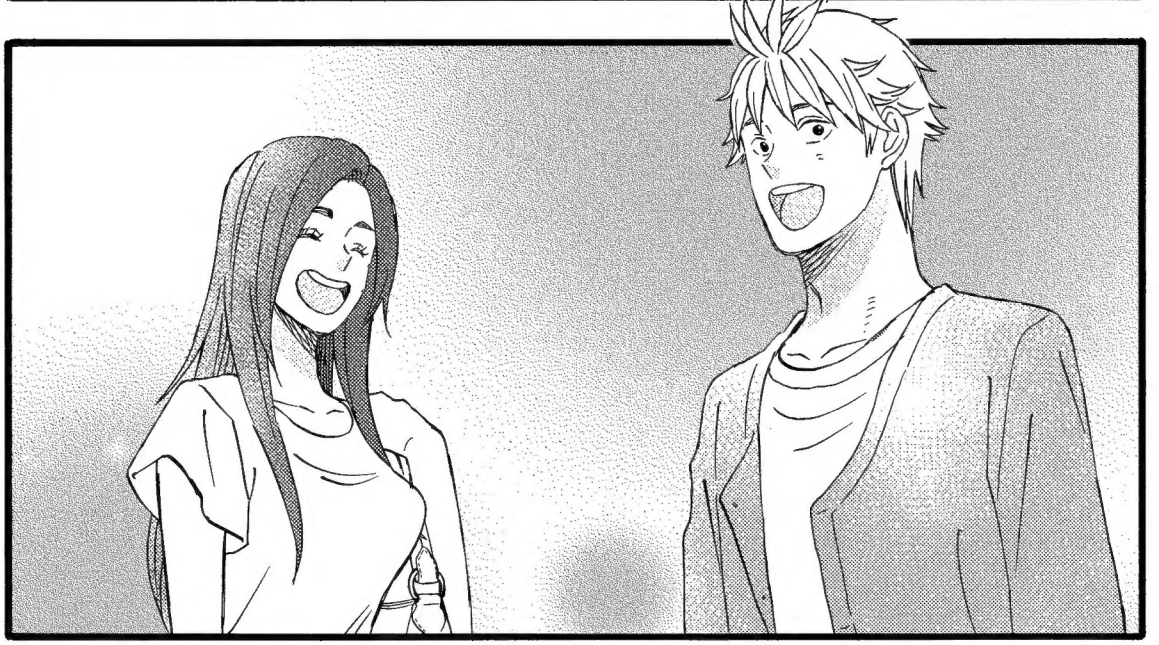
EVEN AFTER I'D STOPPED BRAINSTORMING AND ACCEPTED THE INEVITABLE...
I JUST WANT TO DISCUSS WHETHER WE SHOULD ADOPT MIYAKE OR NOT.

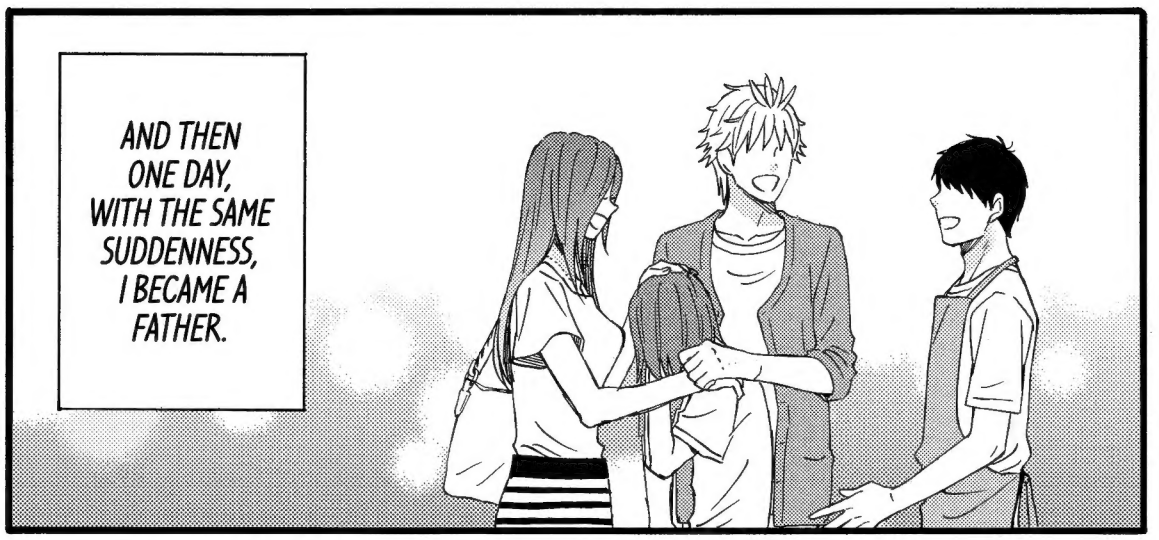
ISHIMURA-SAN WAS STILL LOOKING FOR WAYS TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.


LET'S SAY Hi!

ONE DAY, I, KIRISHIMA SHIROU, SUDDENLY BECAME A MARRIED MAN.






AND THEN ONE DAY, WITH THE SAME SUDDENNESS, I BECAME A FATHER.